



Uniting Communities in Need
and Clinicians Who Care

NHSC UPDATE!

President Bush signs the “Health Care Safety Net Amendments” legislation (S.1533), reauthorizing the National Health Service Corps

The NHSC is currently reviewing all provisions of the new legislation and is developing policies, procedures, and application materials to allow for their timely implementation. Information will be posted on the NHSC web site as it becomes available. Please visit

<http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/legislation> for information already available on the Impact on Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Designation and the National Research Service Award.

NHSC Loan Repayment Program (LRP) Application Information Bulletin On-line - The FY 2003 NHSC LRP

Applicant Information Bulletin is now available on-line at <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/applications/2003LRPBulletin.doc> Individuals will not be able to submit an application on-line and need to call 1-800-221-9393 to obtain a hard copy application. The hard copy applications should be available for mailing by the end of December.

Campus-Based Ambassador Program Update

- The NHSC is moving forward on its implementation of the Campus-Based Ambassador Program, now in its 2nd year of existence. To date, the NHSC has signed up 126 volunteer faculty “Ambassadors” from a variety of health professions disciplines, with leads coming into the NHSC on a daily basis. Ambassadors identify and prepare students and NHSC Scholars for careers in service to the underserved. They share our mission to improve the health of the Nation’s underserved and expose students to all NHSC programs and BHPr opportunities to serve the underserved.
- The NHSC is working with a variety of partners to implement the program including the Area Health Education Center program, the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), the American Psychological Association (APA) and the State Primary Care Offices and Associations (PCOs/PCAs). The NHSC continues to pursue other partners to make this program a success. Your suggestions are welcome.
- For example, the NHSC and the Area Health Education Center program recently teamed up to recruit additional Ambassadors. On November 25, Dr. Weaver and Lou Coccodrilli, AHEC Branch Chief, sent a joint letter to all the

AHEC program directors inviting them to become and/or assist in recruiting NHSC Campus-Based Ambassadors.

- The AAMC and the NHSC will be working together to tie the Ambassador Program into AAMC’s “Careers in Medicine” program on medical school campuses throughout the country. Also, the AACN/NHSC Faculty Advocate Network will be transitioned into the Ambassador Program, bringing in several more hundred nurse practitioner Ambassadors. The ADEA is interested in recruiting the remaining dental schools who have not yet signed up to have an NHSC Campus-Based Ambassador present at their school.
- An NHSC Ambassador can be any faculty member from an accredited U.S. academic institution that leads to a degree in a discipline for which the NHSC recruits. The faculty should be committed to improving the health of the Nation’s underserved and willing to volunteer their time to assist students on campus.
- If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an NHSC Ambassador, please submit contact information (name, email, phone and fax numbers) to Ms. Michelle Corbin, NHSC Campus-Based Ambassador Manager, at 301-594-4162 or mcorbin@hrsa.gov.

The NHSC Hosts Primary Care Office and Field Consultant Meeting

The NHSC hosted training for Primary Care Offices (PCOs) and NHSC Field Consultants during November. The meeting was an opportunity to introduce these two important NHSC partners and discuss how they will work together to assist the NHSC and underserved communities. The NHSC thanks everyone who was able to attend and looks forward to continuing the dialogue as we work to refine the roles and responsibilities of these NHSC partners in the field.

Management of Primary Care Offices Transferred

Responsibility for management of the Primary Care Offices within BHPR has been transferred to the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (NCHWA). NCHWA houses the Shortage Designation Branch, and they have been asked by Capt. Kerry Nesseler, Director, BHPR to take on this new responsibility, building on their already strong relationships with states established through the designation activities.

As always, please let us hear from you. E-mail us your feedback at NHSCUpdate@hrsa.gov.